

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Replace the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 29, with the following amended paragraph:

Figure 5 shows another variant in which the tread pattern motifs connected by connecting elements comprise an evacuation ~~channel~~. channel;

Insert the following new paragraph on page 4, after line 30:

Figure 6 is similar to Fig. 5 showing another variant in which motifs have channels, and connecting elements have orifices.

Replace the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 8, with the following amended paragraph:

In order to stiffen the tread pattern comprising these rubber blocks in the longitudinal direction, there are molded at the time of molding the tread two rubber bridges 4 and 5, each bridge connecting the opposing faces 11 and 21. These bridges originate on the bottom 30 of the groove 3 and extend in the direction of the depth P of said groove 3 all to the same height H beneath the running surface.

Alternatively, H could be zero so that the connecting elements extend from the running surface. These two bridges 4 and 5 define a cavity 6 with the walls 11 and 21 and the bottom 30 of the groove 3.

Replace the paragraph on page 6, beginning at line 9, with the following amended paragraph:

In the variant shown in Figure 3, there are shown two variants of orifice geometries which have advantages which ~~[will be]~~ will be described hereafter. To prevent the orifices from closing under the contact pressures existing between the rubber bridges and the roadway when the wear of the tread is sufficient, it is preferable to produce orifices having sections of elongate form substantially in the direction of the height of the bridge (that is to say in the direction of the depth of the groove). "Elongated substantially in the direction of the height" is to be understood to mean a form, the largest of the dimensions of which is oriented with said direction or alternatively forms a slight angle (less than 45°) to said direction.

Replace the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 1, with the following amended paragraph:

To increase further the effectiveness of evacuation, it is possible to combine both the presence of a channel in the motifs in relief and of orifices in the connecting elements, as shown in Fig. 6.